

REMARKS

Initially, applicant requests withdrawal of the finality of the Official Action. MPEP §706.07(b) states that “it would not be proper to make final a first Office Action in a continuing or substitute application where the application contains material which was presented in the earlier application after final rejection or closing of prosecution but was denied entry because (A) new issues were raised that required further consideration and/or search . . .” In this case, the Advisory Action dated June 17, 2004, stated that the proposed amendment raises new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. Thus, it is believed that the finality is improper and should be withdrawn.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicant submits that claim 6 is not directed to an invention that is independent from claims 1 - 5. In particular, applicant submits that claim 6 pertains to forwarding status information from a game server to a profile server in response to receiving an access request, while claim 1 recites a notifying system that causes the information providing server to notify the profile server of a request for an information service. All of the claims are directed to informing status. In fact, claim 6 recites a specific embodiment of claim 1 in which the game server is type of information providing server, and the status information is a type of personal information.

Moreover, claim 6 does not have separate utility from claim 1. Claim 6 does not merely recite inquiring as to availability status, but also requires forwarding the

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information from the game server to a profile server and then informing the game client of the status. Claim 1 also requires forwarding information from an information service to a profile server. The information is subsequently forwarded to the game machine. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement and examine all of the claims.

Claims 1 and 6 both require forwarding information from one server (which provides a server, e.g., a game server in claim 6) to a profile server. Based upon the information in the profile server, the client (i.e., game machine) receives updated information.

In contrast to claims 1 and 6, TANG discloses PC to PC communications. The information is not forwarded from an information providing server or game server to a profile server. Thus, an anticipation rejection is improper.

With respect to obviousness, applicant submits that the claimed forwarding information from the server *providing the service* is patentably distinguishable (and a non-obvious variation) from forwarding the information from the device *requesting the service*, as done by TANG. Thus, the claimed centralized system is not taught or suggested. The Examiner is respectfully directed to col. 11, line 66 - col. 12, line 7; col. 12, lines 29 - 33; col. 12, line 61 - col. 13, line 5; and col. 13, lines 38 - 65. Although col. 12, line 61 refers to a “communications server 80,” it is believed that the server is

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software on the client PC and not a separate server. The “directory service 129” is explained at col. 11, lines 41 - 44 and also does not correspond to the claimed servers. Consequently, TANG does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claims 1 and 6, for example, the information providing server notifying the profile server or “forwarding status information from the game server to a profile server.” It is thus requested that the Examiner indicate the allowability of claims 1 and 6.

Claims 2 and 5 have been revised to positively recite the child indicator. It is submitted that none of the applied references teach or suggest the combination of claimed features. Consequently, it is respectfully requested that the examiner withdraw the rejections of the claims and indicate the allowability of pending claims 2 and 5.

Dependent claims 3 and 4 are also believed to recite further patentable subject matter of the invention and therefore are also believed allowable over the prior art. As such, allowance of the dependent claims is deemed proper for at least the same reasons noted for the independent claims, in addition to reasons related to their own recitations. For example, claim 3 now recites at least three utilization states of the information service. At best, the applied reference shows only two utilization states of the information service: on and off, as disclosed in col. 6, line 67 - col. 7, line 1. The more general states of activity disclosed in TANG et al. do not pertain to the specifically claimed utilization state *of the information service*, which is of course provided by a

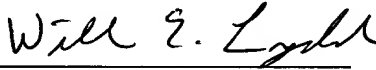
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server. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability of all of the claims in the present application.

The above amendments have been presented merely for the purpose of clarification, and not to overcome the applied prior art. Accordingly, no estoppel is deemed to result from any of the present amendments.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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